

ETHNIC COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP
June 13, 2007

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT

ABSENT

ECAG FACILITATOR

Pom Pom Ganguli, Asst. DEO/Public Advisor

AFRICAN-AMERICAN CAUCUS

Tod Short, Chair
Patricia Byrd

Stan Lee
Rosa Washington

LATINO CAUCUS

Fernando Del Rio
Ramon Diaz
Daniel Morales
Rose Montoya-Lona

Harold Martinez
Anastacio Medina

ASIAN-PACIFIC ISLANDER CAUCUS

Tom Chang, Chair
Paul Choe
David Sakurai

NATIVE AMERICAN

John Bacheller

OTHERS PRESENT

Earl Elrod, Board Assistant

AQMD STAFF

Joe Cassmassi, Planning & Rules Manager
Pom Pom Ganguli, Asst. DEO/Public Advisor
Ranji George, Program Supervisor
Carolyn Hamilton, Public Affairs Specialist
Mike Harris, Senior Deputy District Counsel
David Madsen, Senior Public Information Specialist
Ed Pupka, Senior Enforcement Manager
Greg Ushijima, Air Quality Specialist

1. Call to Order/Opening Remarks

2. Approval of the April 11, 2007 Minutes/Review of Action Items

The April 11, 2007 Minutes were approved as presented.

ACTION: *Staff to forward the minutes of the April 11, 2007 meeting to the Administrative Committee as an information item for their June, 2007 meeting.*

ACTION: *Provide a copy of the powerpoint presentation given by Jill Whynot at the May 9, 2007 Meeting on the AQMP Socioeconomic Analysis.*

ACTION: *Provide ECAG Members with a list of school districts which have participated in the Lower Emission School Bus funding programs.*

3. Caucus and Subcommittee Reports

There were none.

4. Update on AQMP Status

Joe Cassmassi, Planning and Rules Manager, provided an update on current actions taken on the 2007 Air Quality Management Plan to the ECAG members. Mr. Cassmassi informed members that a Public Hearing was held on June 1, 2007 to consider the 2007 Final AQMP and CEQA documents. At this hearing, SCAG requested additional time to notice the Goods Movement Measures for transportation conformity. The actions taken by the Governing Board were to adopt the Draft 2007 AQMP and certify the CEQA assessment. The Governing Board also directed staff to notice the proposed transportations conformity budgets. Staff has been directed to forward the Final 2007 AQMP to CARB for inclusion as part of the SIP.

Mr. Cassmassi mentioned the existence of a 74-tons-per-day NOx shortfall between the AQMD – Stationary and Mobile Source Measures, the CARB Statewide measures and SCAG Transportation Control Measures. It has been suggested to take a Dual Path approach in order to close the gap: (1) “Legally Approvable” Plan containing minimum commitment to minimize legal vulnerability, and (2) Legally nonbinding commitment to achieve additional reductions. A question was posed by Member Short pertaining to whether buses and trucks were to be regulated under the proposed mobile source measures in the AQMP. Mr. Cassmassi explained that buses and trucks would not be included as the AQMD does not have control over Mobile Sources.

At the Public Hearing, over 25 comments were received with a majority in support of the 2007 Draft Final AQMP. The primary topics of concern were: Facility modernization, the Wood smoke/fireplace measure, Charbroiler measure, and Environmental Justice. With regard to the Transportation Conformity, the District released a 30-day notice on June 11, 2007 with the budget scheduled to be

considered on July 13, 2007. The Governing Board will consider budgets, with CARB implementing additional on- and off-road mobile source measures to close the gap or with SCAG's Goods Movement Measures to reduce CARB's obligation.

5. AQMD Refinery Flare Website

Ed Pupka, Senior Enforcement Manager, briefed members on the new Notification System on the AQMD's website. This site enables facilities subject to Rule 1118 (Control of Emissions from Refinery Flares) to provide notification about flaring events. After pilot testing, effective July 1, 2007, information about specific flaring events will be available to the public. This information will be provided as an overview of the web page. There were no comments or questions from the group.

6. School Bus Program

The Lower Emission School Bus Program is designed to assist public school districts and joint authorities in purchasing new low-emitting buses. Ranji George, Program Supervisor, informed members that since approximately 2000-2001, AQMD has spent nearly \$85 million in state and its own funds to replace 513 old buses, with 427 new CNG and 86 new diesel buses. Over 2,500 school buses have been retrofitted with level 3 PM traps. In total, there are about 3,000 clean buses on the roads carrying 200,000 students daily.

To apply for school bus replacements and infrastructure for up to \$19 million, applications must be filed by July 31, 2007. The estimated Board Award Date is October 5, 2007. In order to replace 1977-1986 school buses with new alternative fuel buses and crush the old buses, schools pay \$25,000 maximum. Replacement of pre-1977 buses, schools pay \$10,000 maximum and up to 10% of funds provided for school bus replacement will be provided for infrastructures.

Mr. George informed members that award criteria for school bus replacement are as follows: (1) Only public school districts and joint power authorities qualify for funding, (2) Funds must be allocated among the four counties proportionally to each county's population, (3) 50% of funds must be awarded according to AB1390, (4) Award other schools one alternative fuel bus from the remaining 50% of funds, and (5) the remaining funds are awarded on a first come, first served basis. Mr. George explained that Donor schools could give a 1991 or newer school bus free to a recipient school, but the recipient must crush a pre-1987 bus. The Donor school could get a new alternative fuel bus for a \$25,000 match.

7. Review last Governing Board Meeting and Discussion on Upcoming Board Meeting and Discussion on Upcoming Governing Board Agenda Items

Dr. Ganguli, Assistant DEO/Public Advisor, discussed the Agenda items pertaining to the funding from MSRC for CNG School Buses and the adoption of Proposed Rule 445 – Wood Burning Appliances. Dr. Ganguli gave a brief update

on Proposed Amended Rule 1309.1 from the June Board meeting and noted that it is scheduled to be heard at the July 13, 2007 Board meeting.

8. Other Business

There was none.

9. Public Comment

There was none.

10. Adjournment

There being no further comment, the meeting was adjourned at 2:42 p.m.